

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON335P
Application Serial No.: 09/940,904

REMARKS

By the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 19. After the present amendment, claims 1-2, 4-20, 22-36 and 42-47 are pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 10-15 and 28-33. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-9, 16-20, 22-27, 34-36 and 42-47 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 16-24, 34-36, 42-43 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 16-24, 34-36, 42-43 and 45-46, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Swaminatham, et al. (USPN 5,596,676) ("Swaminatham") in view of McDonough, et al. (USPN 5,727,123) ("McDonough").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of present application, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to depend from claim 10, and has amended independent claim 19 to depend from claim 28. Applicant respectfully submits that based on the Examiner's allowance of claims 10 and 28, claims 1 and 19 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 16-18, 20-24, 34-36, 42-43 and 45-46 depend from claims 1 and 19, respectively, and should also be in condition for allowance.

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B. Rejection of Claims 7-9 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-9 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Swaminathan in view of McDonough, and further in view of Yeldener, et al. (USPN 5,774,837) ("Yeldener").

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-9 and 25-27 depend from claims 1 and 19, respectively. Accordingly, at least for the same reasons stated above, claims 7-9 and 25-27 are also in condition for allowance.

C. Rejection of Claims 44 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 44 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Swaminathan in view of McDonough, and further in view of Jarvinen, et al. (USPN 5,946,651) ("Jarvinen").

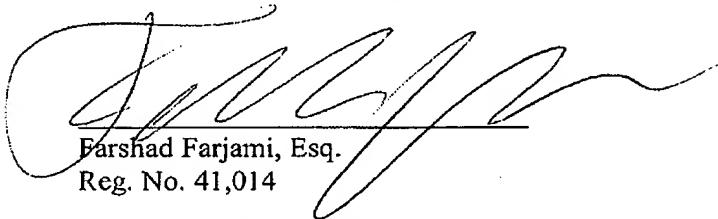
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 44 and 47 depend from claims 1 and 19, respectively. Accordingly, at least for the same reasons stated above, claims 44 and 47 are also in condition for allowance.

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D. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early notice of allowance for claims 1-2, 4-20, 22-36 and 42-47 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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